

Listing of the Claims:

A clean version of the entire set of pending claims is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121(c)(3). This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A microcontroller the programming of which is carried out in at least one machine-dependent assembly language in which the assembler commands, with the exception of conditional program branches, are executable essentially independently of data, the microcomputer being adapted to execute a conditional branch instruction,

wherein in case of a fulfilled branch condition at least one program counter is loaded with a new address or a new value, and

wherein in case of an unfulfilled branch condition the instruction is optionally either ended immediately, or the at least one program counter is reloaded with its current address or current value prior to ending the instruction.

2. (Previously Presented) A microcontroller as claimed in claim 1, comprising at least one multiplex unit triggerable by means of a result of testing the branch condition,

wherein in case of a fulfilled branch condition, an input of the at least one program counter is loaded with the new address or the new value, and

wherein in case of an unfulfilled branch condition, the input of the at least one program counter is loaded with the address or value at an output of the program counter.

3. (Previously Presented) A smartcard controller including the microcontroller of claim 1.

4. (Previously Presented) An electrical or electronic device controlled by means of at least one microcontroller according to claim 1.

5. (Previously Presented) A method for processing the programming of a microcontroller carried out in at least one machine-dependent assembly language, the assembler commands, with the exception of conditional program branches, being executed essentially independently of data, comprising executing a conditional branch instruction,

wherein in case of a fulfilled branch condition at least one program counter is loaded with at least one of a new address or a new value, and

wherein the instruction is optionally either ended immediately or the at least one program counter is re-loaded with at least one of its current address or current value prior to ending the instruction.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein in case of a fulfilled branch condition at least one of the new address or the new value is supplied to an input of the at least one program counter, and in case of an unfulfilled branch condition at least one of the address or value at an output of the program counter is supplied to the input of the at least one program counter.

7. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein at least one of testing of the branch condition or the loading of the program counter is carried out with complementary data.

8. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein in case of an unfulfilled branch condition the option between ending the instruction immediately and re-loading the program counter with its at least one of its current address or its current value is controlled by at least one special bit.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the special bit option can be switched on and off by means of at least one random function or by means of at least one suitable bit sequence.

11. (Previously Presented) A microcontroller which is programmable in at least one machine-dependent assembly language in which the assembler commands, with the exception of conditional program branches, are executable essentially independently of data, the microcomputer being adapted to execute a conditional branch instruction including a branch address, the microcontroller comprising:

a program counter; and

a multiplexer,

wherein in case of a fulfilled branch condition the multiplexer is controlled to load the branch address into the program counter, and

wherein in case of an unfulfilled branch condition the multiplexer is controlled to reload the program counter with its current address prior to ending the instruction.